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SOUTHERN NEWS.

EAST TENNESSEE.

BRISTOL, December 7.—General Longstreet has raised the siege of Knoxville, in consequence of heavy reinforcements received by Burnside. On Friday night our forces fell back to Morristown, where a stand will probably be made.

The work of putting the East Tennessee and Virginia railroad in running order will be pushed forward by Col. Owen.

Our loss at Knoxville is six hundred men, principally in Hood's division; among them Colonel Ruff, of Georgia, was killed, and Colonel Fisher, of Mississippi, seriously wounded.

The assault on the 29th failed in consequence of forged orders, recalling Anderson's brigade.

DALTON, December 8.—The enemy's cavalry appeared yesterday at Ringgold; but, being attacked by our cavalry, under Grigsby, were driven a mile beyond.

FROM CHARLESTON.

The Richmond Whig of the 9th, contains the following:

CHARLESTON December 7.—All quiet this morning. No firing last night. No change in affairs. A slow fire has been kept up between the enemy's batteries and our own. No casualties.

The Charleston Mercury says:

The enemy's bombardment of Sumter has evinced but little spirit for the past few days.

On Tuesday night one hundred and forty rifled shots were fired, of which seventy-four missed, and four mortar shells, all of which fell outside.

During the night a negro was killed by a Parrott shell.

Much signalling was observed between the fleet and Black Island, but as yet its meaning is not apparent.

On Monday twenty-two mortar shells were fired, of which eleven missed, and one rifled shell, which struck the fort.

Only two mortar shells were fired on Monday night, both of which missed.

On Tuesday, eight mortar shells were thrown, four of which missed. There have been no casualties since Sunday night.

About half past twelve on Monday night the enemy again opened upon the city.—Eleven shells were thrown, three of which fell short. At twenty minutes after four on Tuesday P. M., the fire was renewed, and sixteen shells were thrown. By a fragment of one of them a Miss Hathorn was mortally wounded.

The bombardment aroused most of the batteries on James Island, and a rain of shells was poured upon the obnoxious battery. The affair ended by a spirited artillery duel between Gregg and James Island.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 8.—A brisk fire between Fort Moultrie and Battery Gregg opened this morning. The Yankees have ceased firing on Sumter. They are altering their batteries and entrenching Gregg eastward. One monitor has timber works around her sides to protect her from torpedoes. Our batteries keep a slow but distant fire upon the enemy's working parties. Yesterday slow firing was kept up between the enemy's batteries and ours.

FROM LOUISIANA.

MOBILE, Dec. 5.—The Evening News has late advices from the Trans-Mississippi country. Scott, the publisher of the Wanderer, at Covington, states that the Yankees were defeated by Gen. Green at Plaquemine, with the loss of two thousand prisoners, on the 27th of November. Navigation of the river was virtually closed. On the 29th Captain Scott attacked two hundred Yankee cavalry at the Plains Store, five miles below Port Hudson, driving them into the latter place, killing and wounding thirteen men, and capturing nine or ten horses and their equipments. Our loss none. On the 28th Lieutenant Powell captured three valuable cases of medicines near Port Hudson, and thirteen prisoners from sunken transports. The garrison at Port Hudson numbers two thousand strong, mostly negroes.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

The Congress of the Confederate States met in Richmond on Monday, the 7th inst. Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, of Va., presided in the Senate, and the House of Representatives was called to order by Hon. Thos. S. Bocock, the Speaker. The Message of President Davis was received and read in both Houses. In the House of Representatives the following members from Virginia, were present, Messrs. Garnett, Chambliss, Lyons, Collier, Goode, Holcombe, Dejarnette, Funsten, Boteler, Baldwin, Staples, Preston, Miller, Johnson and Russell.

Mr. Boteler, of Va., presented the credentials of his recently elected colleague, Hon. David Funsten, of the Ninth Congressional district, which being received, Mr. Funsten came forward and took upon himself the usual obligations.

The Enquirer, Dec. 8th, says:—"Senator Simms, of Ky., and Senator Clark, of Missouri, yesterday moved in the Confederate Senate, important resolutions and bills against permitting substitutes to be any longer employed.—This action is demanded by public necessity, and as it involves no breach of faith will give satisfaction to all except those immediately affected. It is a step in the right direction.—The government returns the substitute money and requires all to do their duty. The counter current of this session has set very deep; it will be memorable in the history of the country we hope, for the good it will do. This action against substitution will destroy a great evil in the army."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Richmond Enquirer recommends the immediate stoppage of Northern supplies for Federal prisoners,—first, because the Federals charged the Confederates with appropriating the things sent, to their own use; and secondly, because that, as the Secretary of War has given orders that no abatement of rations should be made because of the supplies, the reception does not relieve in the least the Confederate Commissary.

A telegram from Orange Court House on the 7th to the Richmond Whig, says that 600 prisoners have been registered by the army Provost Marshal since Gen. Meade crossed the Rapidan; 200 more have been sent forward who were not registered here."

On Wednesday, Messrs. Wall & Co., in Washington, sold the personal effects of Judge J. A. Campbell, of Alabama, late Judge of the United States Supreme Court, which had been seized under the U. S. Confiscation act. The sales amounted to over \$8,300.

Order from Gen. Grant.

The following order has been issued by Gen. U. S. Grant.

HEADQUARTERS, MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI, IN THE FIELD, CHATTANOGA, Tenn., Nov. 5, 1863.—General Order No. 4.—The habit of raiding parties of Rebel cavalry visiting towns, villages and farms where there are no Federal forces, and pillaging Union families, having become prevalent, department commanders will take immediate steps to abate the evil, or make the loss by such raids fall upon secessionists and secession sympathizers of the neighborhood where such acts are committed. For every act of violence to the person of an unarmed Union citizen, a secessionist will be arrested and held as hostage for the delivery of the offender. For every dollar's worth of property taken from such citizens or destroyed by raiders, an assessment will be made upon secessionists of the neighborhood and collected by the nearest military forces, under the supervision of the commander thereof, and the amount thus collected paid over to the sufferers. When such assessments cannot be collected in money, property useful to the Government may be taken at a fair valuation, and the amount paid in money by a disbursing officer of the Government, who will take such property up on his returns. Wealthy secession citizens will be assessed in money and provisions for the support of Union refugees who have been and may be driven from their homes and into our lines by the acts of those with whom such secession citizen are in sympathy. All collections and payments under this order will be through disbursing officers of the Government, whose accounts must show all money and property received under it, and how disposed of.

By order of Major General U. S. Grant:

T. S. BOWERS, Assistant Adj. Gen.

U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Grimes gave notice of a bill to encourage enlistments in the naval service of the United States, and to credit such enlistments on the military quotas of the respective States. After the presentation of a number of petitions, among them one by Mr. Sumner for the "emancipation of all persons of African descent now held in slavery," the Senate adjourned till Monday. The House of Representatives was principally occupied in the election of a Chaplain. The Rev. W. H. Channing (Unitarian,) of Washington, was chosen, having received 86 votes. The Right Rev. Bishop Hopkins, of Vermont, received 55 votes. The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury was presented, and referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, when the House adjourned till Monday.

The Baltimore American says:—"General Chalmers' fight with the Federal force under Colonel Hatch resulted in a repulse of his men. They captured two negro pickets of the 2d Tennessee, whom they hung. The negroes retaliated by throwing the Rebel wounded into the river, dragging them with ropes around their necks, and refusing to touch them with their hands. The fight lasted four hours near Moscow, Tennessee."

The absence of any mention of Mexican affairs in President Lincoln's Message excites some comment in Washington, and is construed by the Mexican Minister as favorable to his government.